

Subject: Re: Help with Utah's Math Standards
Date: Tue, 31 Jul 2007 09:55:54 -0700 (PDT)
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Dear Senators Stephenson and Dayton, and Representative Hughes,

I have attached my report on the Utah Mathematics Standards. They are weak but barely acceptable in Algebra I, Geometry, Intermediate Algebra, which contains far too many topics to be effectively treated, and pre-calculus. However, they are among the worst proposed state standards that I have ever seen in grades K - 7!

They are so bad that there is literally no way they can simply be corrected. Indeed, based on some of Prof. Wu's comments in his review of the previous version, they made considerable changes in the seventh grade standards. While they managed to address some of Prof. Wu's criticisms, they managed to introduce new and even more serious errors in the process.

I am sorry that this review is later than I expected. I had finished a review last week, focusing on the seventh grade standards. However, when I made a final check, I found that the standards I had been using had been replaced on the net. So I had to redo the review, and in the process, I felt I should also include some discussion of the issues with the sixth grade standards.

Yours,
R. James Milgram